GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RURAL DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:7004
ANSWERED ON:11.05.2000
WASTELAND AND BARREN LAND
TUFANI SAROJ

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have made any estimate in regard to the total wasteland and barren land in the country;

(b) if so, the extent to which the said land has increased during the year 1999 as compared to the year 1990;

(c) the expenditure incurred in this regard during each of the last three years, State- wise;

(d) the details of the barren/wasteland converted into cultivative land by incurring the above expenditure;

(e) whether the said barren/wasteland could not be furtile; and

(f) if so, the reasons therefor?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT

(SHRI A. RAJA)

(a) & (b) In the past no systematic survey has been made on scientific basis periodically for quantification of wastelands including barren lands in the country. However the Department of Space (National Remote Sensing Agency, Hyderabad) has reported in March, 2000 the extent of wastelands including barren land in the country at 63.85 m.ha. Therefore the information on the increase in the extent of wastelands including barren land during the year 1999 as compared to the year 1990 is not available.

(c) & (d) Wastelands/barren lands are degraded lands which are currently under utilised and are deteriorating for lack of appropriate water and soil management or on account of natural causes. Therefore agricultural operations are generally not feasible on such lands at the first stage of development. However Department of Land Resources is implementing three major schemes for development of wastelands/degraded lands on watershed basis viz. Integrated Wastelands Development Programme (IWDP), Drought Prone Areas Programe (DPAP) and Desert Development Programme (DDP)A sum of Rs. 40148.00 crores has been released to various States for development of 1766 lakhs ha. wastelands/degraded lands. State wise details of funds released under these schemes during last three years is at Annexure.

(d) & (f) In view of the c & (d) above question does not arise.